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Martin Finnerty

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EXAMINER

LEE, CHUN KUAN

ART UNIT

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2181

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,352

Applicant(s)

FINNERTY ET AL.

Examiner

Chun-Kuan Lee

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-33, 35, 36 and 40-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-33, 35, 36 and 40-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/11/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Objection to claim 41 in the preceding office action is currently withdrawn. Currently, claims 6, 13, 20, 34 and 37-39 are cancelled, and claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-33, 35-36 and 40-45 are pending for examination.
2. In regard to applicant's comments, regarding to the interview summary dated September 8, 2009, that the applicant respectfully and strongly disagrees with this summary to the extent that it proposes that Applicant believes device 140 in FIG. 1A to be the only novel feature of the present invention; to the contrary, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims include a number of limitations, and combinations of limitations, that are absent from the cited passages, whether taken individually or in combination with each other and the knowledge available to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

In view of applicant's comment, the examiner welcomes applicant's further clarification as to what applicant consider as the core novelty of the instant invention. The examiner will currently examine the instant application base on the examiner's best understand of the instant invention, in view of applicant's Specification and Drawings, and applicant's clarification during the interview dated September 8, 2009.

3. In response to applicant's arguments (on page 17) with regard to the independent claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that the combination of the references does not teach/suggest the claimed feature "... selecting a first device of a plurality of devices ... at least two devices configured to provide the request service ..." because Toda avoids issues of compatibility by eliminating flexibility all together; and Wakai-Tso-Iwamoto-Toda combination teaches a print element among the plurality of devices (e.g. facsimile element, print element, scanner element) to provide the print requested service, and not the claimed feature of "... at least two devices configured to provide the request service ...", as the cited elements do not include two printer elements that could be selected; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

The examiner respectfully disagrees, and examiner is not fully clear as to where in Toda avoids issues of compatibility by eliminating flexibility all together; however, Toda does teach at least two devices (e.g. scanner and printer) configured to provide the request service (e.g. copy service), as the copy process utilizes the scanner to scan in the document, and then utilize the printer to print the scanned document (Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]).

4. In response to applicant's arguments (on page 18) with regard to the independent claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that the cited passages do not teach that Toda's CPU 21 would be suited for controlling communication with any other printer element that are external to MFP; therefore, a person having ordinary skilled in

the art would not adapt Toda's CPU 21 for use with such external printer device; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

The examiner respectfully disagrees, because Toda's CPU is utilized for a facsimile application; wherein data is transfer/faxed to another printer element for the corresponding printing; therefore, a person having ordinary skilled in the art would adapt Toda's CPU for use with an external printer device (Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]).

5. In response to applicant's arguments (on pages 18-20) with regard to the independent claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) that Toda's CPU 21 needs to be modified so that it operates in response to actions by Tso's language parser, and one skilled person would not make this modification because the office action's proposed benefits of "more efficient control of the multi-function device" and "improved compatibility" are altogether unjustified, as the office action failed to explain how the modification of the already-suitable CPU 21 would achieve more efficient control or improve compatibility when Toda itself teaches that the system described therein already provides efficient control (paragraph [0011]) and improve compatibility (paragraph [0015]); moreover, it is not at all clear that Tso's parser 22 would improve Toda's CPU 21 in this regards, because Tso's parser 22 would add unnecessary and unwieldy overhead to Toda's already efficient CPU 21, and Tso's content types relevant to the parser 22 are not being described being usable or even relevant to the functions

of Toda's CPU 21; applicant's arguments have fully been considered, but are not found to be persuasive.

The examiner respectfully disagrees, because the applicant seems to have reversed the examiner's rationale for combining the references, and the examiner further clarifies as following, by combining Toda's processing of different device commands via the CPU into Wakai, Tso and Iwamoto's multi-functional device (e.g. modifying Wakai, Tso and Iwamoto's multi-functional device to include Toda's processing), Toda's CPU would bring the benefit of more efficient control and improved compatibility, as indicated by the applicant to be taught by Toda. Additionally, because both Tso and Toda operated in a local area network (LAN), therefore operation of Tso's parser is usable/relevant to Toda's CPU (Tso, col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65; and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016]; [0045]-[0077]).

I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by **37 CFR § 1.312**. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CORRECTIONS BY THE EXAMINER

7. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cyrus Bharucha, having Reg. No. 42,324, on 02/05/2010. Accordingly, since a complete record of the interview has been incorporated in the instant examiner's amendment, no separate interview summary form is included in the instant office letter **MPEP § 713.04**.

CORRECTIONS MADE IN THE APPLICATION

The application has been amended as following:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The below described amendments to the claims are necessary to further clarify the claimed invention.

NOTE: The claims amended by this examiner's amendment have been referred to by their original claim number and, if renumbered at time of allowance, also by the new number located in parentheses as required by **MPEP § 1302.04(g)**.

In claim 1, "...A method comprising:

receiving a request to provide a requested service, wherein

the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language, a module

performing said receiving is configured to receive the request from a plurality of source types, and

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node;

providing the request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;

obtaining results of parsing the request from the language parser;

selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service, at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and

said selecting the first device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the request; and

converting the request to a second request, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,

the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language ..."

should be replaced with

...A method comprising:

receiving a first request to provide a requested service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language, a module performing said receiving the first request is configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types, and the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node;

providing the first request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;

obtaining results of parsing the first request from the language parser;

selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service, at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and

said selecting the first device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and

converting the first request to a second request, wherein the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language, the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language ...-.

In claim 5, line 5, "... said converting the request to the second request comprises ..." should be replaced with "... said converting the first request to the second request comprises ...-.

In claim 7, line 2, "... sending a response to the request, wherein ..." should be replaced with "... sending a response to the first request, wherein ...-.

In claim 9, "... A system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request to provide a requested service, wherein

the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving means is configured to receive the request from a plurality of
source types, and

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first

remote network node, and a control module executing on a second
remote network node;

parsing means for parsing the request formatted in the first language;

obtaining means for obtaining results of said parsing means;

selecting means for selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the
requested service, wherein

each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding
service, at least two devices among the plurality of devices are
configured to provide the requested service, and

the selecting means performs said selecting the first device in response to
said obtaining means obtaining the results of parsing the request;
and
converting means for converting the request to a second request, wherein
the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second
language,
the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response
to receiving the second request, and
at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests
only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined
in the second language ...”

should be replaced with

-... A system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a first request to provide a requested service,
wherein the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first
language,
the receiving means is configured to receive the first request from a
plurality of source types, and
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first
remote network node, and a control module executing on a second
remote network node;
parsing means for parsing the first request formatted in the first language;

obtaining means for obtaining results of said parsing means;
selecting means for selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein
each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service, at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and
the selecting means performs said selecting the first device in response to said obtaining means obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and
converting means for converting the first request to a second request, wherein the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,
the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and
at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language ...-.

In claim 14, line 2, "... sending means for sending a response to the request ..." should be replaced with "... sending means for sending a response to the first request ...-.

In claim 16, "... A computer-readable medium comprising:

receiving instructions to receive a request to provide a requested service, wherein

the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the request

from a plurality of source types, and

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first

remote network node, and a control module executing on a second

remote network node;

providing instructions to provide the request to a language parser configured to

parse the first language;

obtaining instructions for obtaining results of parsing the request from the

language parser;

selecting instructions to select a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the

requested service, wherein

each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding

service, at least two devices among the plurality of devices are

configured to provide the requested service, and

the selecting instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of

parsing the request; and

converting instructions to convert the request to a second request in a request

format defined in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response
to receiving the second request, and
at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests
only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined
in the second language ...”

should be replaced with

-... A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

receiving instructions to receive a first request to provide a requested service, wherein
the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,
the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the first request
from a plurality of source types, and
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first
remote network node, and a control module executing on a second
remote network node;
providing instructions to provide the first request to a language parser configured
to parse the first language;
obtaining instructions for obtaining results of parsing the first request from the
language parser;
selecting instructions to select a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the
requested service, wherein

each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service, at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and the selecting instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and converting instructions to convert the first request to a second request in a request format defined in a second language, wherein the second request conforms to the second language, and the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language ...-.

In claims 17-19 and 21-22, line 1, "... computer-readable medium ..." should be replaced with -... computer-readable storage medium ...-.

In claim 21, line 3, "... sending instructions for sending a response to the request ..." should be replaced with -... sending instructions for sending a response to the first request ...-.

In claim 23, "... A computer system comprising:
a processor configured to execute instructions;

a plurality of devices coupled to the computer system, wherein each device is configured to perform a corresponding service; and
a memory, coupled to the processor, and configured to store the instructions, wherein the instructions comprise
receiving instructions to receive a request to provide a service, wherein the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,
the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the request from a plurality of source types,
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node, and
at least two devices of the plurality of devices provide the service;
providing instructions to provide the request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;
obtaining instructions to obtain results of parsing the request from the language parser;
identifying instructions to identify a first device of the at least two devices to provide the service, wherein the identifying instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of parsing the request; and
converting instructions to convert the request to a second request in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,
and
the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the
second request, and
at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a
format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language ..."
should be replaced with
-... A computer system comprising:
a processor configured to execute instructions;
a plurality of devices coupled to the computer system, wherein each device is
configured to perform a corresponding service; and
a memory, coupled to the processor, and configured to store the instructions,
wherein the instructions comprise
receiving instructions to receive a first request to provide a service, wherein
the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,
the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the first request from a
plurality of source types,
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote
network node, and a control module executing on a second remote
network node, and
at least two devices of the plurality of devices provide the service;

providing instructions to provide the first request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;

obtaining instructions to obtain results of parsing the first request from the language parser;

identifying instructions to identify a first device of the at least two devices to provide the service, wherein the identifying instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and

converting instructions to convert the first request to a second request in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in the second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language ...-.

In claim 27, line 2, "... sending instructions for sending a response to the request ..." should be replaced with "... sending instructions for sending a response to the first request ...-.

In claim 30, "... A system comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a request to provide a service, wherein the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language, the receiving module is further configured to receive the request from a plurality of source types, the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node, at least two devices of a plurality of devices are configured to provide the service, and the plurality of devices is coupled to the system; a language parsing module configured to parse the first language, wherein the request is provided to the language parsing module; an identifying module configured to identify a first device of the at least two devices to provide the service, wherein the identifying module is responsive to the language parsing module parsing the request; and a converting module configured to convert the request to a second request in a second language, wherein the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language, and the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second ...”

should be replaced with

-... A system comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a first request to provide a service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language, the receiving module is further configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types,

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node,

at least two devices of a plurality of devices are configured to provide the service, and

the plurality of devices is coupled to the system;

a language parsing module configured to parse the first language, wherein

the first request is provided to the language parsing module;

an identifying module configured to identify a first device of the at least two devices to provide the service, wherein the identifying module is responsive to the language parsing module parsing the first request; and

a converting module configured to convert the first request to a second request in a second language, wherein the second request conforms to a request format defined in the second language, and the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the second request, and at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second ...-.

In claim 35, line 2, "... a sending module for sending a response to the request ..." should be replaced with "... a sending module for sending a response to the first request ...-.

II. REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-33, 35-36 and 40-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakai et al. (US Patent 6,587,126) in view of Tso et

al. (US Patent 6,421,733), Iwamoto et al. (US Patent 7,167,919) and Toda (US Pub.: 2004/0030693).

9. As per claims 1, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Wakai teaches a computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising:

a processor (CPU 802 of Fig. 8) configured to execute instructions;

a plurality of devices (e.g. printer device and scanner device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7) coupled to the computer system (Fig. 7, ref. 706), wherein each device is configured to perform a corresponding function/service (e.g. printing function, scanning function) (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60); and

a memory (Fig. 8, 805-807), coupled to the processor (Fig. 8, ref. 802), and configured to store the instructions, wherein the instructions comprise:

a module of receiving instructions (web server 204 of Fig. 2) configured to receive a first request to provide a requested service (e.g. service of printing), wherein the first request is received from an applet (Fig. 2, ref. 202, 203) executing on a first remote network node (Fig. 2, ref. 102) and the first request conforms to a request format defining in a first language (e.g. markup language) (col. 14, ll. 41-47), wherein the first request to provide the service of printing is transferred from the web browser (Fig. 2, ref. 202, 203) to the web server (Fig. 2, ref. 204) conforming to the markup language utilized by the web browser (Fig. 132) (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60),

at least one device (e.g. printer device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7) of the plurality of devices (e.g. printer device and scanner device in multi-function device

705 of Fig. 7) is configured to provide the requested service (e.g. service of printing), wherein the plurality devices comprising the printer device and the scanner device (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60);

providing the first request to a server component (Fig. 2, ref. 103) (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60);

a module of selecting instructions (i.e. selecting therefore identifying) configured for selecting (identifying) a first device (e.g. printer device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7) of the plurality of devices/at least two devices (e.g. printer device and scanner device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7) to provide the requested service (e.g. service of printing) (Fig. 32, ref. S3201) (col. 3, ll. 3-5 and col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60), and

the module of selecting instructions (i.e. selecting therefore identifying) are inherently performed in response to module of obtaining request instruction, as there is more than one option that the first request may be directed including the option to request for scanning by the scanner (e.g. scanner device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7) and the option to request for printing by the printer (e.g. printer device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7); therefore, only after obtaining the first request and determining the type of request (e.g. scanning or printing) by the desktop's PC's processor or the like, can the received request be properly routed to the correct peripheral device over the network (Fig. 7, ref. 701) (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60); and

a module of converting instructions (request manager 207 of Fig. 2) configured for converting the first request to a second request in a second language (e.g. process

command comprising the print command) (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60), wherein the request manager converts the first request to the corresponding process command directed to the printer device;

wherein the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language (i.e. language associated with print process command) (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60);

the first device (e.g. printer device in multi-function device 705 of Fig. 7) is configured to provide the requested service (e.g. service of printing) in response to receiving the second request (e.g. process command comprising the print command) (col. 14, ll. 47-55), wherein the service of printing is performed when the printer's command analysis/process unit (Fig. 2, ref. 208) receives the print command (col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60).

Wakai does not teach the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising: wherein the first request is received from a plurality of source types; wherein the plurality of source types comprises a control module executing on a second remote network node; a language parser configured to parse the first language; obtaining results of the parsing the first request from the language parser; at least two devices among/of the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service; selecting performed in response to the result of the parsing; and at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

Tso teaches a system and a method comprising:

multiple network clients (col. 6, ll. 51-63);

a language parser (Fig. 3, ref. 22) configured to parse the first language (e.g. markup language); obtaining results of the parsing the first request from the language parser; and selecting performed in response to the result of the parsing (col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65), by combining the parser with Wakai's conversion and device selection.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Tso's parser into Wakai's server component for the benefit of enabling the manipulation of transferred data between the client computer and the network computer/device without changing existing hardware (Tso, col. 1, ll. 24-40) to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Wakai and Tso do not teach the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising wherein the first request is received from a plurality of source types; and wherein the plurality of source types comprises a control module executing on a second remote network node; at least two devices among/of the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service; and at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

Iwamoto teaches a system and a method comprising:

a first request is received from a plurality of source types (e.g. access controller, enterprise server, magnetic card reader) (Fig. 1-3; col. 1, ll. 41-42; col. 2, ll. 13-30 and col. 4, l. 4 to col. 5, l. 67), in combination with Wakai's request and Tso's multiple

network clients; therefore, resulting combination have multiple network clients on the network, each client have the respective different type of source to send the first request; and

wherein the plurality of source types comprises a control module (e.g. access controller 49 of Fig. 3) executing on a second remote network node (Fig. 1-3; col. 1, ll. 41-42; col. 2, ll. 13-30 and col. 4, l. 4 to col. 5, l. 67), in combination with Wakai's request and Tso's multiple network clients; therefore, resulting combination have the internet network having multiple network clients wherein the multiple network clients include the access controller.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Iwamoto's different source types into Wakai and Tso's network system not only have the benefit of expanding the utilization of the single peripheral device by different source types, but also have the benefit of more efficient and secure storage of access management information at a centralized location (Iwamoto, col. 2, ll. 46-53) to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Wakai, Tso and Iwamoto do not expressly teach the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising at least two devices among/of the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service; and at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

Toda teaches a system and a method comprising at least two devices (e.g. scanner and printer) among/of the plurality of devices are configured to provide a requested service (e.g. command corresponding to the copier function/service) (e.g. as the copy request utilizes the scanner to scan the document, and then utilizes the printer to print the scanned document); and at least one of the plurality of devices (e.g. scanner device 32, printer device 31, and facsimile device 28 of Fig. 2) is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language (Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), by combining the user/client requesting to copy, scan, print, or fax with Wakai, Tso and Iwamoto's multi-function device, the resulting combination of the references further teaches the fax device is configured to only receive fax command that is incompatible with the request format corresponding to print command.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Toda's processing of different device commands into Wakai, Tso and Iwamoto's multi-function device for the benefit of more efficient control of the multi-function device and improving compatibility with the multi-function device (Toda, [0011] and [0015]) to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

10. As per claim 2, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Wakai further teaches the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising directing the second request (process

command comprising the printing command) to the first device (printer) (Wakai, col. 14, 47-55), as the second request (process command) is directed to the printer's command analysis/process unit (Wakai, Fig. 2, ref. 208).

11. As per claim 3, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 2 as discussed above, where Wakai further teaches the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising:

the first language is a mark up language (Wakai, Fig. 10 and col. 14, ll. 41-47), as the first request is transferred by the web browser (Wakai, Fig. 2, ref. 202, 203) over the network to the web server (Wakai, Fig. 2, ref. 204) utilizing language such as HTML (Wakai, Fig. 132);

the second language is a device specific language of a plurality device specific languages (Wakai, Fig. 7 and col. 16, ll. 56-60), wherein process command comprising the print command and the scan command, as the print command would be specific for the printer and the scan command would be specific for the scanner,

wherein each of the plurality of devices communication using one of the plurality of device specific languages (Wakai, Fig. 7 and col. 16, ll. 56-60).

12. As per claim 4, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 2 as discussed above, where Wakai further teaches the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising wherein the request formats comprise:

at least one instruction (instruction to print) (Wakai, col. 17, ll. 8-14), and

data (print information) to be used when performing the at least one instruction (Wakai, col. 17, ll. 8-14).

13. As per claim 5, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 4 as discussed above, where Wakai further teaches the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising:

specifying use of a specific feature (printing feature) of the first device (Wakai, printer 702 of Fig. 7) (Wakai, Fig. 22 and col. 14, ll. 51-55),

wherein said specifying use of the specific feature comprises specifying a optional variable (variable of "Print") (Wakai, Fig. 22 and col. 23, ll. 59-63) and

providing a value (value of data file to be printed) for the optional variable (Wakai, Fig. 132 and col. 45, ll. 19-22), wherein the data file to be printed is provided by specifying the specific data file; therefore, the optional variable and the value specify use the specific feature of the first device; and

said converting the first request to the second request comprises:

including the optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request, and including the value for the optional variable in the data of the second request (Wakai, Fig. 132 and col. 45, ll. 19-22), wherein the user requests service of printing of the specific data file by selecting the "print" on screen with the specific data file, therefore the second request comprises of the "print" request and the data file to be printed.

14. As per claim 7, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Wakai and Toda further teaches the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising sending a response to the first request wherein the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language (e.g. markup language) (Wakai, Fig. 22, ref. S2213 and Toda, [0069]), as the HTML page corresponds to the printing is transferred to the client component.

15. As per claim 8, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 7 as discussed above, where Wakai further teaches the computer-readable storage medium system and method comprising wherein the response formats comprises:

at least one instruction (Wakai, Fig. 22, ref. S2213), wherein the instruction comprising the instruction to display the corresponding HTML page; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction (Wakai, Fig. 23, ref. S2312, S2313 and col. 24, ref. 45-49), wherein the data to be used comprising "Printing successful" and "Printing failure".

16. As per claim 27, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 24 as discussed above, where Wakai further teaches the computer-readable storage medium wherein the instructions further comprising sending a response to the first request (Wakai, Fig. 22, ref. S2213), as the HTML page corresponds to the printing is transferred to the client component.

17. Claims 10-12 and 14-15 repeat the limitations of claims 2, 4-5 and 7-8 and are therefore rejected accordingly.

18. Claims 17-19 and 21-22 repeat the limitations of claims 2, 4-5 and 7-8 and are therefore rejected accordingly.

19. Claims 24-26 and 28-29 repeat the limitations of claims 2, 4-5 and 7-8 and are therefore rejected accordingly.

20. Claims 31-33 and 35-36 repeat the limitations of claims 2, 4-5 and 7-8 and are therefore rejected accordingly.

21. As per claim 40, Wakaj, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Iwamoto further teaches the method comprising wherein the plurality of source types comprises a magnetic card reader (Iwamoto, Fig. 1-3; col. 1, ll. 41-42; col. 2, ll. 13-30 and col. 4, l. 4 to col. 5, l. 67).

22. As per claim 41, Wakaj, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Wakaj, Tso and Toda further teach the method comprising:

receiving a third request to provide a second requested service (e.g. service of scanning or faxing), wherein the third request conforms to the request format defined in

the first language (e.g. markup language) (Wakai, col. 14, ll. 41-47), said receiving the third request is performed by the module in the computer system, providing the third request to the language parser (Wakai, col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65 and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), wherein the third request to provide the service of scanning or faxing is transferred from the web browser (Wakai, Fig. 2, ref. 202 ,203) to the web server (Wakai, Fig. 2, ref. 204) conforming to the markup language utilized by the web browser (Wakai, Fig. 132);

obtaining results of parsing the third request from the language parser (Wakai, col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60 and Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65) ;

selecting a second device (Toda, scanner device 32 or facsimile device 28 in MFP 2 of Fig. 2) of the plurality of devices (Toda, scanner device 32, printer device 31, and facsimile device 28 in MFP 2 of Fig. 2) to provide the second requested service (e.g. service of scanning or faxing), wherein said selecting the second device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the third request (Wakai, col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65 and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]); and

converting the third request to a fourth request (e.g. scan or facsimile command), wherein the fourth request conforms to a request format defined in a third language (e.g. language associated with scan or facsimile process command), the second device (Toda, scanner device 32 or facsimile device 28 in MFP 2 of Fig. 2) is configured to provide the second requested service (e.g. service of scanning or faxing) in response to receiving the fourth request, and at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to

receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the third language (Wakai, col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; c col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65 and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), wherein the printer device is configured to only receive print command that is incompatible with the request format corresponding to scan or fax command.

23. As per claim 42, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Wakai, Tso and Toda further teach the method comprising: wherein the at least two devices configured to provide the requested service comprise: the first device, wherein the first device comprises a first application program interface (API) configured to receive instructions in a first device-specific native language; and a second device, wherein the second device comprises a second API configured to receive instructions in a second device-specific native language, and the second device-specific native language is distinct from the first device-specific native language (Wakai, Fig. 1-2; Fig. 4; Fig. 7; col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; col. 24, ll. 45-49; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65; col. 4, ll. 14-17; and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), as it is to the examiner's best understanding, in accordance to applicant's Specification (paragraph [0003] and [0009]-[0011]) and Drawings (Figure 1), that the above feature corresponding to connecting and utilizing devices of different vendors having different APIs is enabled by the functionality of utilizing markup language, wherein first request conforming to the markup language is forwarded and then converted to the corresponding device-specific native language,

understood by the corresponding device; considering that it is also well known to connect and utilize devices by different vendors on the LAN to communicate with the requesting computer via markup language, that the resulting combination of the references teaches the multifunctional apparatus having the plurality of devices connected to the requesting computer over the LAN and communicating via the markup language, and that the received markup language request by the multifunctional apparatus from the requesting computer is converted from the markup language to the device specific language before being forwarded to the corresponding device, it would have been obvious for the multifunctional apparatus' devices to be manufactured by different vendors having corresponding APIs, as communication between the requesting computer and the multifunctional apparatus' devices is enabled by the markup language and the corresponding language conversion (i.e. the use of the markup language and the corresponding language conversion is functional equivalent to the core novelty of applicant's invention for language conversion); additionally, in accordance to the interview dated 09/08/2009, the resulting combination of the references is further clarified to be functional equivalent to the novel device manager for receives the markup language request and convert it to the appropriate language utilized by the device, therefore, it would have been obvious for the multifunctional device to have the devices by different vendors, wherein communication between the requesting computer and the devices is enabled by the references' language conversion functionality.

24. As per claim 43, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Wakai, Tso and Toda further teach the method comprising: wherein the at least two devices configured to provide the requested service comprise: the first device, wherein the first device is produced by a first vendor; a second device, wherein the second device is produced by a second vendor; the second vendor is distinct from the first vendor (Wakai, Fig. 1-2; Fig. 4; Fig. 7; col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; col. 24, ll. 45-49; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65; col. 4, ll. 14-17; and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), as it is to the examiner's best understanding, in accordance to applicant's Specification (paragraph [0003] and [0009]-[0011]) and Drawings (Figure 1), that the above feature corresponding to connecting and utilizing devices of different vendors having different APIs is enabled by the functionality of utilizing markup language, wherein first request conforming to the markup language is forwarded and then converted to the corresponding device-specific native language, understood by the corresponding device; considering that it is also well known to connect and utilize devices by different vendors on the LAN to communicate with the requesting computer via markup language, that the resulting combination of the references teaches the multifunctional apparatus having the plurality of devices connected to the requesting computer over the LAN and communicating via the markup language, and that the received markup language request by the multifunctional apparatus from the requesting computer is converted from the markup language to the device specific language before being forwarded to the corresponding device, it would have been obvious for the

multifunctional apparatus' devices to be manufactured by different vendors having corresponding APIs, as communication between the requesting computer and the multifunctional apparatus' devices is enabled by the markup language and the corresponding language conversion (i.e. the use of the markup language and the corresponding language conversion is functional equivalent to the core novelty of applicant's invention for language conversion); additionally, in accordance to the interview dated 09/08/2009, the resulting combination of the references is further clarified to be functional equivalent to the novel device manager for receives the markup language request and convert it to the appropriate language utilized by the device, therefore, it would have been obvious for the multifunctional device to have the devices by different vendors, wherein communication between the requesting computer and the devices is enabled by the references' language conversion functionality.

25. As per claim 44, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above, where Wakai, Tso and Toda further teach the method comprising: adding a new device to the plurality of devices; and coupling the new device to the language parser, wherein the new device is configured to provide the requested service (Wakai, Fig. 1-2; Fig. 4; Fig. 7; col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; col. 24, ll. 45-49; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65; col. 4, ll. 14-17; and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), as the multifunctional apparatus is newly connected to the LAN..

26. As per claim 45, Wakai, Tso, Iwamoto and Toda teach all the limitations of claim 43 as discussed above, where Wakai, Tso and Toda further teach the method comprising: wherein the first device is the new device (Wakai, Fig. 1-2; Fig. 4; Fig. 7; col. 13, l. 21 to col. 16, l. 60; col. 24, ll. 45-49; Tso, Fig. 3, ref. 22; col. 2, l. 44 to col. 3, l. 65; col. 4, ll. 14-17; and Toda, Fig. 1-2; [0004]-[0016] and [0045]-[0077]), as the multifunctional apparatus is newly connected to the LAN.

III. CLOSING COMMENTS

Conclusion

a. STATUS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

The following is a summary of the treatment and status of all claims in the application as recommended by **M.P.E.P. 707.07(i)**:

a(1) CLAIMS REJECTED IN THE APPLICATION

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

b. DIRECTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENCES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-0671. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM to 5PM.

IMPORTANT NOTE

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alford Kindred can be reached on (571) 272-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

February 09, 2010
/Chun-Kuan Lee/
Examiner, Art Unit 2181

Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2181